PSUs in accordance with the investment policies evolved by respective Boards of Management under the guidelines of the Government. The investments were made under powers delegated by the Board.

LPG Distribution Centres in West Bengal

3730. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of LPG distribution centres, district-wise in West Bengal; and

(b) what is the criteria for the opening of LPG distribution centres ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA) : (a) 228 as on 1-1-1993.

(b) LPG distributorships are opened at places with a population of 20,000 and above, in a phased manner, subject to product availability, provided the location offers adequate potential to sustain an economically viable distributorship.

Decanalisation and dual Marketing of Kerosene, LPG and Diesel

3731. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) by when decanalisation of the import of kerosene and LPG dual marketing are likely to start;

(b) whether it is a fact that the dual marketing for diesel is also likely to be introduced; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA) : (a) Kerosene and LPG have already been allowed to be imported by private entrepreneurs. Time by which import of these products under parallel marketing may start will depend upon the initiative and efforts of private entrepreneurs.

(b) and (c) There is no such proposal.

Sanctioned Quota of Kerosene for Bihar

3732. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL ALIAS MEEM AFZAL :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that kerosene in Bihar is used for lighting and cooking as well as for running pumps for irrigation purposes;

(b) whether it is a fact that kerosene quota of Bihar is much less than that sanctioned to other states;

(c) whether it is also a fact that population of Bihar is more than 10 per cent of the total population of the country whereas its quota of kerosene is even less than 6 per cent;

(d) if so, whether Government would supply kerosene to the State in accordance with its demand immediately; and

(e) by when and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA) : (a) Kerosene is used for both lighting and cooking purposes.

(b) to (e) SKO is a deficit product in the country. Allocation to States are made on historical basis. Due to constraints of import capacity and foreign exchange, it has not been possible to increase the allocations to States/UTs and rationalise per capita consumption of SKO in various States.

Oil and Gas Exploration Programme

3733. SHRI MATANG SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) what has been the progress in oil and gas exploration programme during Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) the details of programme finalised for oil and gas exploration during the